REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2005. In the Office Action Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,160,688 to Okumura.

By this Response, independent Claims 1, 10, 12 and 20 have been amended to recite that the slider outer body surface is approximately parallel to either the main pole or the top shield. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by such amendment as an approximately parallel orientation of the main pole 108, top shield 112, and slider body outer surface 106 is clearly shown in Figures 10 and 11.

Further independent Claims 1, 10, 12 and 20 have been amended to recite an overcoat layer disposed between the recited main pole / top shield and the slider body outer surface. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by such amendment as the overcoat layer 138 is clearly disclosed in the Specification and drawings. (Specification, pg. 15, para. 47, and Figures 10 and 11).

Moreover, independent Claims 1, 10, 12 and 20 have been further amended to recite that the slider includes an electrical path between the write head / read head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by such amendment. In the case of a direct connection with the write head 84, a ground via 130 extends between the slider ground pad 92 and the main pole 108 through the overcoat layer 138. (See Figure 10). In the case of a direct connection with the read head 82, a ground via 140 extends between the slider round pad 92 and the top shield 112 through the overcoat layer 138. (See Figure 11). It is contemplated that this particular geometry may

facilitate use of ball bonding of the slider ground pad to a dedicated ground trace upon a trace suspension assembly such as shown in Figure 9. In this regard, newly added Claims 23-26 are specifically directed to such disclosed subject matter as shown in Figure 9.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited Okumura reference does not teach or suggest a slider that includes an electrical path between the write head / read head and the slider ground pad through the overcoat layer where the overcoat layer is disposed between the main pole / top shield and a slider ground pad, as respectively required in newly amended Claims 1, 10, 12, and 20.

As shown in Figure 3, Okumura teaches electrical connectivity between the read and write heads directly to a conductive resin that is disposed upon a surface of the composite head that is perpendicular to the alignment of the poles and shield. The Okumura reference teaches a "third insulation layer 19" that is disposed upon a "magnetic pole layer 18". This would be analogous to Applicants' recited "overcoat layer" that is required to be disposed between the main pole and slider outer body surface (Claims 1 and 10) or disposed between the top shield and the slider outer body surface (Claims 12 and 20). However, the Okumura reference fails to teach or suggest an electrical connection between either the write head or read head to a ground pad that extends through would could be considered such an overcoat layer (third insulation layer 19) as now required by independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 20.

Based upon the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the stated rejection and the applicability of the cited art.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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